MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
MAY '96 352
DAREDEVIL
CAUGHT IN THE...
BULLSEYE!
DIRECT EDITION
$1.95 US $2.75 CAN

MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...
NOT QUITE. RUSH HOUR...
THIS IS THE TIME WHEN THE "SAME OLD, SAME OLD" BEGINS FOR THE BIG APPLE EIGHT MILLION DENIZENS.
THE TIME JUST BEFORE THE MORNING GRIDLOCK CHOKES THE TRAFFIC TO A DEAD HALT.
THE TIME WHEN THE CITY'S CARS, CABS, TRUCKS AND BUSES ENJOY A FEW BRIEF MOMENTS OF AUTO-MOTIVE FREEDOM.
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE NOT-YET-CROWDED AVENUES.
...ENGINES REVVED...
...PEDALS TO THE METAL...
...THEY STREAK THROUGH THE STREETS WITH RECKLESS ABANDON.
OF COURSE, ON THIS PARTICULAR MORNING...

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DESPITE A PAIR OF ESSENTIALLY USELESS EYES...
...A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT ALLOWS DAREDEVIL'S OTHER HYPER-SENSES TO MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR HIS LACK OF SIGHT.
TWENTY BLOCKS DOWN AND THREE AVENUES OVER--
--ALL IN TEN MINUTES FLAT...?
WAS A TIME WHEN I COULD NAVIGATE THIS ROUTE--
--FROM KAREN'S PLACE TO THE OFFICE'S BACK ALLEY--
--IN LESS THAN FIVE!
MAN, I'M ABOUT AS RUSTY AS THIS OLD PIPE...
CHALK UP ONE MORE ITEM ON MY 'THINGS TO IMPROVE' LIST.
OF COURSE, THAT'S GOT TO SIMMER ON THE BACK-BURNER--
--AT LEAST UNTIL I PATCH THINGS UP WITH MY OL' PAL AND PARTNER--
--FOGGY NELSON.
HEL-LO WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
--TO ACT AS MY LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE DURING THE APPRAISAL PROCEEDINGS.
BUT, MS. JASON--
MARTINIQUE...
UH, RIGHT--MARTINIQUE.

I'M A DISTRICT ATTORNEY SPECIALIZING IN LITIGATION--
--NOT REAL ESTATE.
WHY COME TO ME?
BECAUSE YOU RANKED QUITE PROMINENTLY ON MY ASSOCIATE'S LIST.
AND I'M SURE YOU COULD MAKE A TINY EXCEPTION JUST THIS ONCE--
--JUST FOR ME...
AN 'EXCEPTION'?
OH, uh... OF COURSE. I'LL HANDLE IT PERSONALLY.
THOSE LIPS--
THOSE EYES--
ACCELERATED HEARTBEAT... ERRATIC BREATHING--
--FOGGY'S HOOKED.
FOGGY'S "PLEASURE CENTERS" ARE KICKING INTO OVERDRIVE!
SOMETHING'S NOT KOSHER HERE...
Uhh...
UNTIL TONIGHT, MR. NELSON--
--TA!

TA...
WHO--?! OH--
--IT'S YOU.
FOGGY--WE NEED TO TALK.
THEN TALK. JUST TAKE OFF THE STUPID MASK, MURDOCK.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR CHARADES...
I WANT TO START UP THE PARTNERSHIP AGAIN.
THINGS MAY NEVER BE AS GOOD AS THEY ONCE WERE--
--BUT THEY CAN AT LEAST BE GOOD...
AND I SHOULD TRUST YOU AFTER YOU LIED ALL THESE YEARS?
MATT--DAREDEVIL--WHOEVER YOU ARE--
--OUR 'PARTNERSHIP' WAS A SHAM!
FOGGY, WAIT--
NO TIME, MAN. LATER...
YOU FORGOT THE ENVELOPE.
:Sniff-Sniff:--PERFUME... PETROLEUM...
popcorn...?

EVENING...
GUESS I'D BE TICKED OFF, TOO--
TING
AAAAAND... I'M BACK TO SQUARE ONE WITH THE FOG-STER.
--IF MY BEST FRIEND RAN AROUND FIGHTING CRIME--
-- AND I NEVER KNEW IT.
BUT A HERO'S RESPONSIBILITY ISN'T RESERVED SOLELY FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC.
FRIENDS NEED PROTECTION, TOO--
MAN--
--THIS IS THE LIFE!
-- AND IF THAT MEANS KEEPING SECRETS--
--THEN, SO BE IT!

CONEY ISLAND, EVENING...
AN ABANDONED CARNIVAL?
THIS IS WHAT FOGGY'S CLIENT IS HAVING APPRAISED?
PLACE IS A DUMP.
MORBID, TOO.
DEFINITELY NOT SOMEWHERE YOU TAKE THE WIFE AND KIDS.
--I'D BETTER DO A QUICK RECON--
--WHAT WITH THE INCREASE IN NEIGHBORHOOD 'WILDINGS' LATELY--
AND SINCE I'M NONE TOO KEEN ON FOGGY BEING HERE ALONE--

AND AS DAREDEVIL CROSSES THE MIDWAY...
WELL, WELL, WELL--
--ISN'T THIS CONVENIENT...
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT 'MARTINIQUE JASON'I DON'T QUITE GET.
A FASCINATION WITH THEME PARKS? THAT I CAN UNDERSTAND.
PEOPLE NEED A DIVERSION EVERY NOW AND AGAIN. NOTHING ABNORMAL ABOUT THAT--
--BUT A MONEY PIT LIKE THIS HOLE-- HEY!
THE CAROUSEL'S MOVING--
-- AND THE STATUES HAVE COME TO LIFE!
CALL ME CRAZY--
--BUT I GET THE FEELING THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF PROPERTY IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE...

MERRY-GO-ROUND--
--SPEEDING UP--
--WITH EVERY REVOLUTION.
AND THESE THINGS HAVE THE FACES OF MY OLDEST FOES-- THE OWL-- TYPHOID...
TOO WEAK... TO FIGHT... AUTOMATONS.
G-FORCE TOO STRONG.
BLACKING OUT.
ONLY ONE CHANCE.
--MY BILLY CLUB.
GOT TO... JAM-- --GEARS...
THUNK

BABOOM
WHOOO-HO-HOOOOA!
NICE MOVE, MURDOCK!
--GREAT WAY TO GET YOURSELF KILLED!
WELL, AT LEAST I'M FREE OF THOSE MECHANICAL--
THUMP
--OR... MAYBE I'M NOT...
THE KINGPIN?!? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME
DAREDEVIL!!

PERFECT.
KRAK
AS IF ONE WILSON FISK WASN'T BAD ENOUGH...
NOT MUCH OF A CHANCE OF FINDING FOGGY UNDERNEATH A PILE OF MINI MECHANOIDS.
LET'S SEE IF I FARE ANY BETTER--
--FROM A HIGHER VANTAGE POINT.
BUNGIE JUMP OF DEATH
WHOEVER WAS EXPECTING ME--
--CERTAINLY DID THEIR HOMEWORK.

FIRST TYPHOID, THE OWL AND PURPLE MAN--
--THEN THE KINGPIN--
--WOLF!!!
SLAM
CANE...
...CRUSHING TRACHEA--
--PUSHING ME TO... PLATFORM EDGE.
SPIKES?!?
THAT TEARS IT.
I--
--HAVE HAD--
SMAK
--ENOUGH!!!

GASP..GASP..GASP..
SOMEONE FORGOT THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD "AMUSEMENT" WHEN THEY BUILT THIS PARK..
YOU AGAIN?! I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
COME TO THINK OF IT--
--I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS!
MY RADAR SENSES SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO REGISTER HOLOGRAMS
NO, THERE'S SOME OTHER FORCE AT WORK HERE--
--AND I BET WHEN I DISCOVER WHAT--OR WHO--CREATED THEM...
...I'LL ALSO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO FOGGY.
BETTER PITCH FATBOY FIRST, THOUGH.
THIS BUNGEE CORD SHOULD HELP--

--IF IT'S LONG ENOUGH THAT IS!
C'MON TUBBO--
--LET'S PLAY CHICKEN!
--ONLY A FEW FEET TO GO--
--AND ONE OF US IS SKEWERED!
PULL TAUT! ALREADY PULL TAUT....!
YEEEAAAH!
SAYONARA--
--SUCKER!
BOOOM

FREAK SHOW
FOR SUCH A SMALL PARK, THIS PLACE GOES ON FOREVER.
BEEN SEARCHING FOR HOURS WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF--
NO! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME...!
FOGGY!
TAKE IT EASY, BUDDY, I'M--
--HERE? BULLSEYE! ELEKTRA--
"HEY'RE PULLING UP EVERY NIGHTMARE FROM MY PAST!
JUST IN TIME FOR THE MAIN EVENT, HORNHEAD!
YOU'VE ALWAYS WONDERED HOW I AGED ELEKTRA, RIGHT?
WELL, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU LOST YOUR LADY LOVE.
ENJOY THE SHOW..
FWISH
FWISH

TWO CARDS?!
NO TIME TO STOP BOTH OF THEM--
--HAVE TO CHOOSE
GET DOWN, FOGGY!
NOOOOO!
SHUNK
Uhhh...
--WHAT MADE YOU AN INSOMNIAC FOR NIGHTS ON END?
'S THIS WHAT YOU IMAGINED, MURDOCK--
"AND FOR MY NEXT TRICK--!
THUNK

AND THE REST, AS THEY SAY, IS HISTORY...
YOU REMEMBER HOW SHE DIED--
--IN YOUR ARMS, ALL BLOODY AND BEATEN--
--YOUR ONE, TRUE LOVE...
THE BLACK WIDOW--?
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
THIS IS NOT REAL..
IT'S AS REAL AS YOU WANT IT TO BE...
MARTINIQUE JASON--
PLEASE, CALL ME MASTERMIND.
YOU'RE AN AWFULLY PERCEPTIVE MAN, MR. MURDOCK--
--FOR AN ATTORNEY.
IF NOT FOR THAT UNEXPECTED--
--AND HIGHLY ENLIGHTENING--
--EMOTIONAL GLITCH, YOU MIGHT HAVE SUCCUMBED TO MY HYPNOTIC MENTAL ILLUSIONS.

PITY...
STILL, I THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME EVALUATE THIS FACILITY'S EQUIPMENT.
IT ONCE SERVED AS A TESTING GROUND FOR THE ASSASSIN ARCADE'S MURDERWORLD.*
NOW, IT BELONGS TO ME. ALL ITS TECHNOLOGY, ALL ITS INFORMATION...
THE SIZE OF THE DATABASE THAT LITTLE TOAD HAS COMPILED ON THE 'PARANORMAL' COMMUNITY IS STAGGERING.
* A LONG-TIME FOE OF THE X-MEN. --Professor Felder
SO YOU KIDNAPPED FOGGY TO DRAW ME OUT--FOR RESEARCH...?
ON THE CONTRARY! YOU'D BE AMAZED AT THE DEPTH OF YOUR OWN PORTFOLIO.
AND SINCE ARCADE NEVER COLLECTED INFORMATION WITHOUT A REASON--
--YOU SHOULD WATCH YOUR BACK...

AND AS THE ILLUSION FADES...
...REALITY TAKES SHAPE ONCE MORE.
TWO ESTRANGED FRIENDS ARRIVE AT A CROSSROAD...
...A JUNCTURE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP.
HEY, MATT--HOW COME YOU SAVED ME INSTEAD OF ELEKTRA BACK THERE?
SHE WAS KILLED A LONG TIME AGO. THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY.
FOGGY, I WANT TO BE HERE FOR YOU-- FOR MY FRIENDS. TODAY.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, PARTNER?
...WHERE A CRUCIAL DECISION MUST BE MADE.
FOR IF SINS PAST CAN'T BE FORGOTTEN...
...CAN THEY AT LEAST BE FORGIVEN?
AND IF SO...
...WHEN...?
NEXT ISSUE: MATT MURDOCK RETURNS! IS THE FIRM OF MURDOCK AND NELSON OVER? DAREDEVIL VS. MR. HYDE! A NEW ERA OF GREATNESS WITH NEW WRITER KARL KESEL AND NEW PENCILER CARY NORD!

Dear James,

So short letters is what you want, huh? Well, short letters is what you will get, because DAREDEVIL #348 was so powerful an issue that not even a thousand words would be enough to do justice to it!

"Purgatorio" was not only a powerful issue because of the fact that it helped to shape up the direction of the book quite to my satisfaction, but it was also a fine read because of the delightfully human character interaction. Karen, Foggy, and Matt—the scenes featuring these three long-time friends were portrayed wonderfully well, as was the scene between Matt and Sister Maggie. Powerful stuff, by Cary Nord, who did a fine job indeed.

Just when Matt's mind is trying to get a hold of some order again, just when things clear up a bit again, things go awry when Matt's old mentor Stick pays him a little visit. Exactly what is going to happen is unclear, but I'm sure it's going to be as interesting a read as the past three issues have been.

Thanks again for such a great book with such a consistent level of quality. It's surely much appreciated here in my corner.

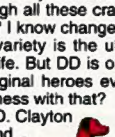
Bill Olam
(Address withheld by request)

Look for more action with Foggy, Karen, and the law firm in issues to come. Plus, the return of someone from Foggy's past!

Dear Devil's Advocate,

I'm writing you people (the whole staff of one of my favorite comics) to ask why Daredevil has gone through all these crazy changes lately? I know change is good. I know variety is the ultimate spice of life. But DD is one of the most original heroes ever created! Why mess with that?

D. Clayton
113B Woodland Ave.
Morton, PA 19070



We always try to highlight the elements in our characters that we think will appeal to the current audience of a book. So that's why DAREDEVIL seems to have changed so much lately! But rest assured, Karl Kesel, writer, is starting next issue what we hope will be a long run that'll soon become the definitive DD for the nineties!

Dear Devil's Advocate,

I started reading DAREDEVIL while he had amnesia during the 280's, and since then he has gone from one strong story to another strong story, but the recent Kruel storyline I'm afraid to say is a nosedive after the highs of "Fall from Grace", and the MAN WITHOUT FEAR and ELEKTRA limited series. I'm prepared to hang in there, but be warned that if the plot is obviously tampered with and does a complete 180 again, I will not be pleased.

Fortunately, with your current direction, a lot of the ground lost with the Kruel storyline can be reclaimed, and I can settle down to read a new Daredevil epic.

I have just read #344, and if Hellspawn is still in the grave and Matt is having one crazy breakdown, then I am anxiously awaiting issue #345 to find out what happens next.

William A. Connell
55 Dundarroch Street
Larbert, Stirlingshire
Scotland FK5 3AJ

William, we hope you've liked Matt's current adventures. Drop us a line and let us know!

DAREDEVIL staff,

Issue #350 is the first issue of DAREDEVIL I've picked up since the days of John Romita, Jr., Typhoid Mary, Bullet, etc. and I have to say, I am impressed! Impressed enough, at least, to pick up the next couple of issues, to see if you can keep it up!

First off, I must say that I love how Matt Murdock is being drawn. He's the proper combination of acrobatic litheness and a boxer's developed upper-body. Just the way I always envisioned Daredevil.

I really liked the spirituality of this issue, and the Zen-ness incorporated into Matt's character. I like the dichotomy of a boxer's son growing up on the tough streets of Hell's Kitchen, and being trained in the Far Eastern techniques and philosophies. I liked the Daredevil of the Miller/Mazuchelli era; the Daredevil that fought strategically, who thought every move he made (i.e. the fight with Nuke), like Captain America used to do. I like my Daredevil to make lots of impossible, acrobatic, "sequential ghost-images" moves. I like my Daredevil noble, with an unerring sense of justice. I like my Daredevil unique.

Before I go, I just wanna impart my list of guest stars on you (if the readers don't speak, how will you know?)—Bushwacker, Bullseye, the Punisher (I loved DD's recent appearance in Frank's book!), the Crippler (maybe on a vacation from the Wild Pack, getting a little skip tracing), and Nomad (perhaps the most pathetically squandrered potential in the Marvel Universe—a disaffected former sidekick to the most worshipped hero in American history, trying to find the American dream and his place in it? Add the tough topics his book tackled, and you get the makings of a very cool book!). Oh, yeah! And more ninjas!

Gary Rabuzzi
(Address withheld by request)

Glad you liked our anniversary issue, Gary. There's guest stars coming. . . but not the

JAMES "PROFESSOR" FELDER EDITOR

JOE ANDREANI DEMOLITION MAN

BOB HARRAS CHIEF

one's you'd expect!

Dear DAREDEVIL,

I am not a regular reader of your title, but I have long been familiar with the character of Daredevil. I would like to say, however, that two things about this magazine have caught my attention in recent months.

First, I'd like to comment that I thought you have a real win of a villain in Sir—a genuinely frightening individual who symbolizes the hyper-aggressive, pseudo masculinity that is the bane of women's existence and the ball-and-chain bind to many men.

Secondly, I must say that it was a grotesque mistake to have Sir turn out to be a woman. While it may have been darkly funny, it took away the one thing that made Sir so frightening to me: there really *are* guys like Sir in the world and have been for centuries. Guys (I don't call them "men") like Sir are what make sexism possible; without them, the less extreme chauvinists wouldn't dare try. When Sir became a woman, I lost all interest in the story. As long as he was a male, he scared me enough to make me care that he was defeated, and I *am* a man.

Nicholas van Hentschel
(Address withheld by request)

Some interesting insights you have on Sir there, Nicholas. We received many letters concerning the whole Sir storyline, and while a lot of readers agreed with you on their disappointment at Sir's being a woman, many other readers enjoyed the element of surprise that this twist brought to the story. Regardless, it can probably be said that Sir was one of the most frightening villains that Daredevil ever faced. We can only hope that he (she?) never returns again!

Dear Devil's Advocate,

Re: DAREDEVIL #349

Matt's long overdue confrontation with his inner demons was written the way I expected it to be—brilliantly. "That's what makes a hero—not the selfless act of a selfless man, but the selfless act of a *selfish* man." What more need be said?

Your bringing back Stick was one thing . . . but to have Matt scaling the ice wall to the Chaste retreat (as Elektra once did) . . . well, that was downright neat!

Those brief cutaways later in the story were instrumental in portraying Matt's struggle—first the one with Sister Maggie—showing us the past Matt's fought to overcome; then the one with Karen—giving us a glimpse of the future's he's trying to build; and lastly, Foggy—reminding us that there is always a problem to be solved, a friend in need, right here in the present.

Matt's going toe-to-toe with all of his former selves (his "masks", if you will), is just the type of psychological battle that this book is famous for.

Mark J. Kiewlak
316 West Main St.
Nanticoke, PA 18634

Glad you liked Matt's final stand against his inner demons, Mark.

Dear DAREDEVIL creative team,

Last Friday I went to my local comic shop and picked up DAREDEVIL #349-350, the first Marvel comic books I've bought in years and the first Marvel books I actually bought for enjoyment. They didn't let me down. Far from it.

The writing was powerful, especially on #350. I felt like I was being led on the same mental journey, confronting my own past selves, my own past sins. I don't think I've ever read a book in 10 years that really hit me that well.

But I think that the character of Daredevil has a lot to do with why I enjoyed the book so much. When I was standing in the comic shop, looking for a new book to break into the Marvel Universe, I didn't want mutants. DAREDEVIL seemed to be the most down-to-Earth, and he was a hero I remembered from my older brother's comics. After reading these issue, I really love the character, especially seeing him battle his own ghosts and then come to terms with them. While I have no extensive knowledge of what has come before, I can identify with his choices, his fear, his anger, and his new way.

The art was really great. Every page was tremendous. I also liked Cary Nord's work on the previous issue.

I want to thank everyone involved for these issue. They were like a gift and showed the talent and labor needed to craft such a great story. I'm enchanted, and I will be back to follow Daredevil's adventures and learn about him as he seeks his new way. Thank you.

Ken Elliot
334 Pascack Way
Washington, PA 15301

You're welcome, Ken! The fun's just starting—see you next month! And speaking of which. . .

NEXT ISSUE:

Need we say more? Fun, thrills and excitement in the daring DAREDEVIL tradition!!